

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, September 29, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Josh Howroyd*, Legislative Program Manager, Department of Children and Families, *Ariel Ritch*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, *Carlton Giles*, Board of Pardons and Paroles, *Laura Stefon*, Department of Education, *Kevin Kane*, Chief State Attorney, Chief State's Attorney Office, *Karen Jarmoc*, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; *Alejandro Arbelaiz*, Department of Social Services, *Gary Roberge*, Court Support Services Division, *Sean Connley*, Department of Veterans Affairs, *Dr. Noriko*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *Laura Cordus*, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Brian Carlow*, Public Defenders Office, *Laurie Deneen*, Member of the Public

### I. Introductions

This meeting was broadcast on CT-N: <http://www.ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=13280>  
The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:  
[http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383680&opmNav\\_GID=1797](http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2976&Q=383680&opmNav_GID=1797)

### II. Welcome and Policy Update

- a. Special guests at the meeting were from the Polish National Police, including Col. Andrzej Szymczyk, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief and several of his colleagues.
- b. This week the FBI released their crime statistics for the nation. Connecticut has reduced in reported crime last year since the previous year, the second greatest reduction in the United States, behind North Dakota. <http://www.dpsdata.ct.gov/dps/ucr/ucr.aspx>
- c. Women and pretrial detainees are not following the same downward trends, despite a dramatic reduction in the prison population in Connecticut.

### III. Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2016

- a) Minutes were approved.

### IV. Commission Correspondence

- a) Attorney Rachel Baird raised concerns about the CJPAC member list on the website, it has been updated to reflect the current members. She also expressed concerns about the accuracy of information disseminated regarding eligibility for pardons. Chairman Lawlor has communicated with her and the handout for offenders will be updated by the board.

### V. Presentations

- a. Ivan Kuzyk and Kyle Baudoin, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, presented Connecticut's Declining Prison Population: Some Contributing Factors [http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjcjpac/20160930connecticuts\\_declining\\_prison\\_population.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjcjpac/20160930connecticuts_declining_prison_population.pdf)

b. Karen Jarmoc and Dan Cargill from Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence presented Connecticut Domestic Fatality Review Report: Findings and Recommendations [http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjcjpac/20160930ctdvmfatality\\_review\\_ppt.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjcjpac/20160930ctdvmfatality_review_ppt.pdf)

## **VI. Agency Updates**

Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services** – Dr. Jeff Swanson was here last year introducing the research we were doing. It will be published soon and Dr. Swanson will present on this soon.

**Public Defenders Office** – Moving forward with IT initiatives, case management electronic system is up and running. Thanks to the judicial department for daily feeds. This project was on-time and under \$2 million. Internal administrative functions have also been made electronic which saves time and money.

**CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence** – Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence led a training last week at York Correctional Institute, which included 40 members of the staff and met with some incarcerated women. They spoke about receiving disclosures about sexual abuse and abusive histories. Last March, The Governor created a working group to address untested sexual assault kits. Well over 90% of those kits have made it to the lab, and testing has started again. Connecticut received a sexual assault testing kit grant from the federal government, which is being used to fund the testing on those kits. As these get processed and DNA is entered into databases, there needs to be great sensitivity around how to collaborate with others regarding cold cases. The Sentencing Commission has a special committee on sex offenders. This committee makes recommendations on sentencing, supervision, changes to the registry and policy changes. There is a subcommittee working on an online survey for victims and survivors and creating a community survey about their attitudes and concerns about sex offenders in Connecticut.

**Court Support Services Division (CSSD)** – The DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a second Smart Supervision Grant for \$560,000 to CSSD. In 2012 they were awarded a grant to develop curriculum and train officers in scripts that are centered around the client's criminogenic needs. Recidivism rates of people that went through the training were much lower. CSSD developed people who are successful in the program, into coaches to build internal capacity. The grant ran out, but they continued to train their officers. CSSD has three goals: Develop information technology capacity, enhance probation officer coaching initiative, and professionalize and formalized feedback and evaluation. After the first grant process, DOJ asked CSSD to present across the nation on what they were doing due to their success. Other initiatives they are involved in are: MacArthur Grant, advisory group on pretrial and detention, the no money bond discussion, special committee on sex offenders, and JJPOC with respect to PA 16-147.

**Attorney Office** – The State's Attorney Office is working with the Center for Court Innovation on how Connecticut can deal with chronic low level offenders who are burdening the court systems, have a variety of mental health issues, come into the court system and come back again and again. The police often have to make arrests, but that doesn't mean the offender has to be charged and go to court, that is an issue with our system. There is a conference tomorrow at Quinnipiac Law School: Justice Innovation in Times of Change: New Challenges, New Opportunities. There is work being done on cold cases, however many people are upset with law

enforcement because of over enforcement of low level crimes and under enforcement of high level crimes.

**Department of Correction (DOC)** – DOC has been awarded the Second Change Act Planning and Implementation Grant, a \$1 million award up to three years, collaborating with PCS. The Agency broke below the 15,000 barrier for the first time in over 20 years. **The intent to repurpose a facility for 18-24 year olds, due to the budget, it will be narrowed to a housing unit in a facility, this will be monitored and evaluated in collaboration with the Vera Institute.** There are Parole initiatives to identify KPIs and evaluate changes that need to be made. DOC is collaborating with community colleges to offer programs for inmates. DOC closed the Niantic annex earlier this year and is closing portions of Osborne CI, which are each a significant cost saving.

**Department of Children and Families (DCF)** – DCF presented at CCJPOC on the CJTS closure plan, which has a target date of July 1, 2018 and the status of closure goals, including community based services and alternative for secure placement. The DCF population is holding steady at mid-40s, population projections are trending down, it could bottom out at 20 beds needed. The next action step is to take inventory of other state facilities to house a small secure program. DCF is also making reforms to internal programming, right sizing of staff and continuing to make changes to the program model.

**Department of Education** – In the early summer, the Department of Education published their own portal including student level data regarding attendance, from 2010-2015. At the next meeting, there will be an update on STDDI. <http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>

**CT Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV)**- CCADV is hosting a round table this afternoon to talk about the new law that takes effect this Saturday regarding removal of firearms during a restraining order and service of restraining orders. October marks the formal launch of The Children’s Center on Family Violence, which focuses on research, the clinical approach, education and policy. <http://www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health/childrens-center-family-violence/>

**Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)** – DESPP boasts many NARCAN revivals and a \$1.5 million grant to combat heroin and opioid abuse, continue to disrupt drug trafficking and work to enhance community policing and direct people to substance abuse programs. The State Police have conducted 1,670 screens, 844 of which were high danger cases, and many people were connected directly to services. POST gives active shooting trainings for employees. Also there is a new preparedness app for hurricane season, called CTPrepares.

**Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP)**- BOPP started in June implementing the Juvenile reconsideration hearings (PA-15-84), which is going well.

**Department of Veterans Affairs** - The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual stand down event took place at the Rocky Hill Campus, attended by over 900 veterans including many public and private agencies, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. DVA is working to supplement social workers on campus with additional case managers; they are excited to have this additional resource. DVA is working with DOL to have a rep come to their campus for two days a week to help support resident and community veterans and work with “The Workplace” from Bridgeport. DVA is working with DMHAS to support veterans on campus and off campus. The Office of Advocacy and Assistance are now more mobile with laptop computers and phones, so they can meet veterans where they are, and veterans do not have to come to the office. DVA is working with DOC to talk about supporting vets coming out of the veteran’s unit and assist in reintegrating them into the community.

## **VII. Subcommittee Updates**

**PJOR** – no updates

**Behavioral health** – No meeting over the summer. They will meet on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Victim issues** – no updates

## **VIII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Chairman Mike Lawlor adjourned the meeting.